

Overview

In this activity, you will brainstorm ways to introduce shared writing into your classroom. You will try out these activities and then answer a series of reflection questions that will help you evaluate the success of the activities.

Objectives

- To figure out how to introduce shared writing into your classroom
- To try out these activities with your children
- To reflect on the process of creating opportunities for shared writing

Materials

- Large chart paper
- Markers
- “Creating Opportunities for Shared Writing Reflection Sheet,” below

Instructions

1. Choose a shared writing activity for a large group and small group.
2. Brainstorm ways to add variety to your shared writing, such as a graphic organizer or a letter to a book character. Read the CIRCLE tip below to review the components of shared writing.
3. Introduce your new shared writing activities. Pay special attention to your children’s responses to the inclusion of shared writing.
4. Complete the reflection sheet provided below.
5. Reflect on your experiences with this activity and have your thoughts and notes ready to share in the next *Share Ideas*.
 - Describe the activities you used for shared writing.
 - How and why did you select these activities?
 - What worked about these activities, and what could be improved? If you were to use these activities as shared writing activities again, what would you change?

CIRCLE Tip

In shared writing activities:

- The content of the writing is relevant and interesting to children.
- Children contribute ideas.
- The teacher writes down the children’s ideas.
- The teacher talks (“thinks aloud”) about what she’s writing and why she’s writing.
- Children develop their understanding of print concepts.
- Children learn (by experience) that what they say can be written down.

Name _____

Date _____

Creating Opportunities for Shared Writing Reflection Sheet

Part I: Shared Writing in a Large Group

Activity Name: _____

Activity Description: _____

1. Why did you select this activity? _____

2. What special preparations or new materials were required for this activity?

3. How did children respond to this activity? _____

4. If you were to use this activity again, would you change it in any way? If so, how?

Part II: Shared Writing in a Small Group

Activity Name: _____

Activity Description: _____

1. Why did you select this activity?

2. What special preparations or new materials were required for this activity?

3. How did children respond to this activity?

4. If you were to use this activity again, would you change it in any way? If so, how?
